

Our Story Teller.

THE GOOD COUNTERFEIT

By JEROME P. GORIN

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IN the year 1880—there were two banks in B-ville, a thriving little city situated within 200 miles of New York; one a rather insignificant affair; the other, Bethany Bros., a remarkably wealthy and prosperous concern for so small a place.

Friday morning, Oct. 5, when Mr. Charles, the old cashier for Bethany Bros., endeavored to open the big safe the lock would not respond to his manipulations, and the hour for commencing business found Bethany Bros. in the embarrassing predicament of having no money with which to pay checks.

Early in the morning a stranger called, wanting change for a hundred dollar bill. He stood around quite awhile listening to the bankers' excuses to customers and others.

"The lock won't work. We can't open the safe," repeated James Bethany for the fifth time, "but a man from the safe makers will be here at 7 o'clock, and tomorrow we will be all right."

The safe was in plain sight, and, as usual, the maker's name was lettered on it.

The stranger expressed sympathy and showed his interest by asking many questions and telling of similar cases that had come to his knowledge. He took the noon train for New York, but before leaving he sent a long telegram in cipher to one William West, 11 R-street, New York.

The fact that he sent a telegram did not come out, however, until after the mischief had been done.

At 7 o'clock that evening both the Bethany brothers and Mr. Charles were at the railroad station, and when the train stopped a man, carrying a large and small valise, stepped off. On being accosted by James Bethany he said he was the person expected.

After he had eaten supper all four repaired to the bank.

It was 8 o'clock in the morning before the safe was opened and the lock put in order and oiled.

"Gracious!" exclaimed Mr. Charles. "I didn't suppose it would take half so long."

The expert explained that it was a very fine lock, almost never getting out of order, but when once it did go wrong was very difficult to manipulate and adjust.

He set it on a new combination and gave the numbers on a card to Mr. Charles.

When all was finished he presented a form of receipt, printed expressly for his firm, which Bethany Bros. signed, showing that he had done the work, how long it took, what was the matter, etc. The bill for his services and expenses, he said, would be sent by mail. Then the man, whose name was Meinert, went to bed at the hotel. The next day, Saturday, at noon, he left for New York.

The bank opened as usual Saturday. And to dispel any doubt as to its solvency the counter was piled high with currency.

Monday morning when Mr. Charles opened the safe he found only a few dollars in specie and a slip of paper on which was scrawled, "You should change your name to E. Z. Mark & Brother."

After the first shock was over, which caused consternation bordering on panic in the town, telephonic communication was had with the safe makers and the New York police.

The Bethany Safe company said that their man had not yet returned, but they wouldn't listen for a moment to any doubts of his honesty.

The next day they telephoned that Meinert had reported at the office in such condition that he could hardly walk or talk.

His story was as follows:

"On the train, in the seat just in front of me, were two men, who from their conversation I learned were in the L-Safe company. One of them was going to Elmhurst on the same car as my own, to open a safe."

The other was a salesman on his way to Chicago. He asked me for a match and gave me a cigar. They were extremely pleasant, and pretty soon we were all three talking safe business. After smoking the cigar I don't remember anything except vaguely that one of them got off the train with me and we had something to drink. When I came to my senses Monday afternoon I was in a cheap hotel in Buffalo. I couldn't move or speak, but a doctor came and got me on my feet. The landlord said I had a fever and my brother brought me there early Saturday morning in a cab, saying I was on a spree; but he had to go to Cleveland, but would be back Tuesday. He paid three days' board for me. When I found my suitcase was missing I suspected that one of the men had taken my place at B-ville and that the bank had been robbed. All my money was gone, but the landlord bought me a ticket to New York and put me on the train. I was very foolish and shall never get over it."

The amount stolen was in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

It didn't take me—T. M. Sharp, of the detective firm of Good & Sharp—two minutes to evolve the correct theory of the way the thing had been done.

The stranger who wanted a hundred dollar bill changed was the head of a

gang of three bank burglars. His business was to go about the country locating banks easy to rob and that would probably yield a good haul. He happened into Bethany Bros. just in the nick of time, took in the situation at a glance and telegraphed his pal, West, full information and instructions. West and the other member of the gang shadowed Meinert from the Bangor people's office to the train, bought two tickets to Buffalo, planted themselves in the seat in front of Meinert and lured him into conversation. They were provided with drugged cigars and liquor, and, as they expected, Meinert fell into the trap. After gaining possession of his suitcase and credentials the rest was easy. One of them took Meinert to Buffalo, so thoroughly drugged that he could not regain consciousness for two or three days. Then the other personated him at B-ville. The gang leader did not go to New York, but got off about half way and boarded the train his pals and Meinert had taken. He went a few miles beyond B-ville and joined the man who had taken Meinert's place, on the noon train Saturday, both getting off at the next station. There they bought a cheap horse and buggy and Saturday night drove into B-ville and committed the robbery, which, as they had the combination of the safe, was the easiest sort of an affair. Monday morning, when the crime was discovered, they were in Chicago, New York, Canada or anywhere else they chose to go.

The case was plain enough, but catching the criminals and recovering part of the money was not accomplished for months and was brought about only through a sad incident—a lapse of honesty.

As has been said, the robbers took all the money except some small change—that is, all the good money. There were a number of counterfeit bills in the safe that had been accumulating for years which the robbers apparently didn't think they needed, although they evidently had handled them.

While looking sadly over these bills, the only ones left, Mr. Charles exclaimed:

"Why, they took the good counterfeit twenty—the Wilkesbarre bill!"

"What's that?" I asked quickly.

Mr. Charles repeated what he had said, adding that the bill in question

was the best counterfeit he had ever seen.

"Do you remember the number?" I inquired.

"We have it in the letter book," he replied. "We sent the bill once to the Wilkesbarre bank to see what they thought of it."

On looking it up he found that the number I wanted was 127.

The upper left hand corner was torn off, and there was a letter S written in ink on the back in the lower left hand corner," said Mr. Charles.

I jotted all that down, but observed:

"I can't believe they would take a bill marked like that, and a counterfeit to boot."

"It was there last week," asserted Mr. Charles, "for I remember showing it to a traveling man from Boston who had a counterfeit five passed on him the day before. He wanted my opinion of the five, and then I showed him the Wilkesbarre twenty and put it back on the pile of bad money in this pigeonhole."

From the moment the bill was first mentioned one of the clerks, a young man who had been with the bank about a year, seemed ill at ease. He turned pale and finally blurted out:

"Yes, they took it, but it was in the middle of a package of good money. I took \$20 of good money Saturday and substituted the counterfeit for it. I thought I could replace it today." And he burst into tears.

So they did take it, said I to myself, and what is better, they don't know they have it and may pass it out, not noticing that it is bad.

Bethany Bros. were members of a bankers' association that vigorously prosecuted bank crooks, and through it asked to look out for the counterfeit twenty, fully described in their circular, and to keep the matter from the newspapers so that the robbers would not be notified, in which case they would of course destroy the bill.

I wrote the treasury department at Washington requesting immediate information if the bill should ever be sent to them.

Ten months to a day after the date of the robbery I received word from Washington that they were returning the counterfeit twenty to a bank in a town on Cape Cod.

The next day I stepped up to the

cashier of that bank and showed him the message.

"That bill was deposited," said he, "by Mr. Bixby, who keeps a little hotel around the corner, and he redeemed it a few minutes ago. He told me he got it from a minister who is spending his vacation here. The way I remembered whom I got it from is the corner was torn off, and I charged 10 cents for that. Mr. Bixby didn't want to pay it, but when I showed him a package of mutilated currency I was putting up that day to send to Washington for redemption he said he guessed it was only fair to pay something toward the expense of having it redeemed."

On inquiry I learned that this bank was not in the association and had not received the circular.

Then I called on Mr. Bixby.

Mr. Bixby said he had given the bill back to the minister and pointed him out to me sitting on the veranda.

The minister had the counterfeit in his hand and was looking ruefully at it when I introduced myself.

"I got this the other day," said he, "from a man whom I married in the parlor of the hotel. He was a stranger here—so am I—and he asked the landlord to direct him to a clergyman's house, saying he wished to be married. The woman was with him, and as I was standing by Mr. Bixby referred him to me. We got the license, I performed the ceremony and he gave me this bill as a fee. I never saw him before and don't know where he is staying or whether he is still in town or not."

His description of the man tallied fairly well with the appearance of one of the gang, and as he felt sure he would know him if he saw him again we started out to walk about the town, which was fairly swarming with summer boarders. Stopping at the office where the marriage license had been procured, I compared the signature with the writing on the slip left in the safe and decided they had both been written by the same hand. The name signed was William West, not quite, or rather a little more than, William West.

We failed to find him, and I returned to the hotel for supper.

He's gone, I concluded dejectedly. Then a thought struck me. He may have designs on a bank here. If so, this being Saturday, tonight is the very time he would select to do the job.

As there was only one bank of any consequence in the place—the one that had had the counterfeit twenty—I went at once to the cashier's house. He was not at home, but would be at 10 o'clock. I waited till he came.

"Yes," said he in response to my question: "such a man as you describe came into the bank the other day with a cheap time lock appliance which he said would work as well as the very costly ones. He argued that as my bank is situated so near the safe, therefore the danger was that I might be compelled to open it at the muzzle of a gun. As there have been so many cases like that recently, I let him show me how his device worked. He put it on and set it for ten minutes. In five minutes I tried to open the safe, but could not; after ten minutes it opened. Thursday and again Friday he set it for 8 o'clock the next morning, and it worked all right both times. This afternoon when we closed he oiled everything up and set the thing for 8 o'clock Monday morning. If it works all right I am to pay him \$50 for it."

"You opened the safe several times in his presence?" I asked.

"Yes, sir," replied the cashier. "The inner compartment where you keep your cash too."

"Then the combination is the same on both locks," I interrupted.

"How do you know that?" asked he in astonishment.

"How did you happen to tell the man so?" he was replying.

He stared at me in amazement.

"Come to think, I did tell him. He said to me, 'Of course the inner combination is different from the outer,' and I said it was at first, but as I don't confound some-times with two sets of figures I had it changed to correspond with the outer one."

"And after that he didn't think it necessary to have his combination on the inner lock?"

"No, sir. He said if they couldn't open the outer door they couldn't open the inner, of course."

"Quite evident," I replied.

"He stood behind you pretty close when you opened the safe two or three times?" I asked.

"Yes, sir. But he would have to have a remarkable memory to remember the combination. It took me some time to memorize it. It is quite complicated," said he with a tinge of pride in his tone.

"His memory would suffice, but he didn't trust to it," I said.

"I suppose, whether he had his hands in his pockets while you were working the combination?"

"Yes," he said, "he spoke up the cashier's son, a fox-faced young man, who was employed in the bank. He kept his hands in his side coat pockets all the time."

"And he had a little pad in his pocket on which he wrote the numbers as well as how many turns to the right or left after each number. He got the combination all right," said I.

The old cashier looked at me curiously and doubtfully.

"And some time tonight," I continued, "he will open the safe, but we will catch him in the act."

"But the time lock is set for Monday morning," he replied dubiously.

I suppressed a smile and asked him who set it.

"The man set it himself, Mr. Mulright, his name is," he answered innocently.

I could see that he didn't more than half agree with me in my suspicions, or else his old New England pride was aroused and he wouldn't admit that he had been gulled by a sharper.

However, at 1 o'clock that night Mr. Mulright forced a back window of the bank, opened the outer door of the safe and was working rapidly at the inner when I put a pistol to his head and requested him politely to elevate his hands.

A few minutes before I had slipped up behind his accomplice watching outside and choked him as quickly, he couldn't utter a warning cry. It didn't require ten seconds to confirm my suspicions that the accomplice was his woman companion in male attire, and more or less of a green hand at that.

The pair turned state's evidence, and before long we caught the rest of the gang. About \$5,000 of the stolen notes were finally recovered.

BRAIN PUZZLERS

Questions Submitted at the Examination of Teachers

MADE UP BY STATE COMMISSIONER

To Test the Qualifications of Those Who Will Teach the Future in the Public Schools for the Education of the Growing Generation.

Following is the list of questions as prepared under direction of the state commissioner of public schools, and submitted at the county examination of teachers Dec. 1 for elementary school certificates:

UNITED STATES HISTORY INCLUDING CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

1. What was the English plan of the colonial government as exemplified in America?

2. Locate at least three permanent settlements founded in Ohio prior to 1800.

3. Name the treaty which closed the Revolution and state some of its provisions.

4. Explain in full the qualifications and methods of electing United States senators.

5. Make a table of the presidents of the United States from 1838 to 1890, indicating the political party to which each belonged.

6. What was the Compromise of 1850? Name some northern statesmen who were opposed to it.

7. How many amendments have been made to the United States constitution since the Civil War? Give briefly the purpose of each.

8. What was the last important Indian outbreak with which the United States has had to deal? What famous general was killed in this outbreak?

9. Discuss the presidential election of 1876 under the following heads:

(a) Why Grant failed to receive the Republican nomination;

(b) Chief issue of the campaign;

(c) Contest of the election returns.

10. Mention one office which Theodore Roosevelt has held in city, state and national politics.

GEOGRAPHY.

1. Define commercial geography. How much of the time allotted to geographical instruction, would you devote to it?

2. How would you teach a class of beginners the relations which the earth bears to the other planets?

3. Locate three arid regions of the western United States, and tell what means have been employed to render them fertile.

4. How do German manufactures compare with those of the United States? Of what articles do German manufactures largely consist?

5. What city do you consider to be the chief railroad center of Ohio? Why?

6. Mention ten seaports of South America and opposite each, write the name of the country in which it is situated.

7. Where are the zones of the trade winds? What climatic conditions usually prevail in these zones?

8. Name three French dependencies and one French penal colony.

9. Discuss the nature and extent of the mineral resources of Belgium; of England.

10. Explain the cause and manner of United States intervention in Cuba in the fall of 1898.

LITERATURE.

1. Give the approximate dates and state the character of American literature of the Revolutionary period.

2. State the period and nature of the following publications and name the famous editor of each: Spectator, Liberator, Atlantic Monthly.

3. Discuss either Evangeline or Hiawatha as to (1) time in the author's life when written; (2) subject matter; (3) meter; (4) reasons for popularity.

4. Do you consider King Lear or Macbeth the greater tragedy? Why?

5. Mention two English books which have been written about American manners and customs; one American book written about English manners and customs.

6. Discuss Bryant's life and character, and show how his temperament influenced his poetry.

7. Who wrote My Study Windows: The Chambered Nautilus; Daniel Deronda; The Vision of Sir Launfal; The Peary Quest; Rob Roy?

8. Give two reasons why every American should be familiar with the life and works of William Dean Howells. What one of his works is autobiographical?

PHYSIOLOGY.

1. Describe a cross section of the femur.

2. Give an account of the anterior circulation.

3. Name three organs that serve as scavengers and tell how they carry off the waste material from the body.

4. What should be the function of all food? Classify foods according to the nourishing properties they furnish to the body.

5. Contrast the action of alcohol and water in the body.

6. Explain how the brain and spinal cord are protected.

7. In the eye, state the function of each of the following: Corneal coat; crystalline lens; iris.

8. Why is warm food easier to digest than cold food?

9. What is the normal temperature of the body? What sort of clothing affords the body the best protection in winter?

10. What effect has alcohol upon the brain?

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READING.

Examiners will conduct an oral examination in reading.

GRAMMAR.

1. Build three more stately mansions.

2. O my soul,

3. As the swift seasons roll

4. Leave thy low-voiced path!

5. Let each new temple, nobler than

6. the last,

7. Shut thee from heaven with a

8. dome most vast,

9. Till thou at length art free,

10. Leaving thine outgrown shell by

11. life's untrussing sea!

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The first six questions refer to the selection given above.

1. Name all the parts of speech in the English language, and, in the above selection, locate one example of each.

2. Compare all of the descriptive adjectives.

3. Locate as to mood, tense and form, all of the verbs.

4. Find one example each of the following classes of elements: independent, adverbial phrase, adverbial clause.

5-6. Parse: the (1); soul (2); as (3); last (6); till (9); leaving (10).

7-8. Define a conjunctive adverb; write two sentences containing conjunctive adverbs; make a list of ten conjunctive adverbs.

9. Write all the participles of bid (to command), lie (to recline), and blow.

10. State two arguments for, and two against, the use of diagrams in the analysis of sentences.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

The first five questions are based upon National Living by Henry C. King.

1. Show that asceticism is based upon ungodly principles of life.

2. What does King say of the place and value of "druggery" in human life and work?

3. Describe Mosso's experiments and tell what they prove.

4. Explain the interrelation of attention, self-control, and nervous energy.

5. State five physical conditions upon which the possession of surplus nervous energy depends.

6. State what methods you would adopt to secure regular and punctual attendance. In a school deficient in these respects.

7. What is the object of discipline?

8. How would you try to lay a foundation for the love of literature, in the minds of pupils in the second and third grades?

9. What should be the teacher's attitude and duties toward the community in which he is employed?

10. State briefly what each of the following has done for the cause of education in America: Mary Lyon, Horace Mann.

ARITHMETIC.

1. Divide 3.975 by .342 and prove your work by multiplication.

2. Find the least common multiple of 8.5, 19.2, and 7.

3. Define simple, compound and partitive proportion. Illustrate each.

4. Extract the cube root of .0009001.

5. Complete the following rule and write and solve a problem that illustrates it: The areas of similar surfaces are to each other as.....

6. I offered cattle for sale at 25% above cost, but was obliged to drop to 15%; thereby giving \$170. What did the cattle cost? What did I offer them for? What did I sell them for?

7. Find the interest and amount of \$8000 for 2 years at 4 1/2% interest payable annually.

8. Distinguish between a compound and a denominate number; between interest and discount.

9. A cylindrical vessel is 6 feet in diameter; how deep must it be to contain 100 bbl. of water?

10. Find the prime factors of 1226, 1928 and 2346; indicate which of these must be combined to produce the greatest common divisor of the numbers; the least common multiple of the numbers.

WRITING.

For this branch examiners will grade the manuscript in orthography.

ORTHOGRAPHY.

1. What is phonetic spelling? Name two arguments in favor of it and two arguments against it.

2. Define and illustrate: derivative word; trisyllable; affix.

3. Name two expressions for which each of the following abbreviations stands: St. D. C. Sec. A. M. M.

4. Indicate the correct pronunciation (accent, dieresis and syllabification) of the following words: seive, wainscot, Arab, usque, strade.

5. Explain the difference in meaning between the prepositions in the following pairs: among—between; beneath—below; across—through.

These words are to be pronounced by the examiner:

Inventor, equipage, deify, spacious, attendant, sovereign, deluded, obnoxious, equanimity, lovable, doggerel, usurper, caustic, employee, delirious, transmitted, congealed, enameled, harass, bliscator, official, shoulder blade, Manhattan, rancor.

Lost Two Barges.

Portsmouth, N. H., Nov. 28.—The tow-boat Joseph Williams lost two barges of coal, four miles east of here, by the high wind. The barges contained 32,000 tons, and the crew had a strenuous time in saving the big tow.

Teak Carbolite Acid.

Dayton, O., Nov. 28.—Della Welsh, 28, single, committed suicide by taking a quantity of carbolite acid. She was dependent upon a quarrel with her lover, Charles Baker.

ECZEMA THE MOST DISTRESSING AND ANNOYING DISEASE

to which the human flesh is heir, has always been claimed incurable. A cure at last has been found in the wonderful discovery ZEMO, a clean liquid for external use. ZEMO cures by removing the cause. It draws the germs from under the skin to the surface and destroys them and their toxins, leaving a cool healthy skin.

ZEMO'S record for cures has never been equalled. It has been regarded as "the work of the world's greatest cure for all diseases of the skin and scalp."

Get a bottle today of your druggist and write to us about your case.

Harrisburg, Ill., Sept. 1, 1904. HARRINGTON, Ill.

I have used your medicine (ZEMO) for the cure of my face, which was caused by poisoning, and a few applications of your medicine cured me.

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President First National Bank.

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